

**West Eugene Industrial Corridor Environmental Health Project
Community Forum November 16, 2010**

Summary

The organizations Oregon Toxics Alliance and Centro Latino Americano organized a Community Forum on November 16, 2010 to discuss concerns of air pollution in West Eugene and its impact on health. Participants include residents, community leaders, and neighborhood representatives. Lane County Commissioner Rob Handy, briefly spoke about the importance of this issue. The upcoming workshops relating to reducing hazardous wastes, green car maintenance, and self-care asthma tips were also described. After a brief presentation on the Canvass results, the participants discussed their concerns and proposed solutions. Discussions on forming a Community Advisory Committee were introduced and developed.

Other participants from the community include the following: Andrea Ortiz (Eugene City Councilor), Juan Carlos Valle (Board Member of Centro LatinoAmericano), Merlyn Hough and Sally Markos from (Lane Regional Air Protection Agency), Remie Calalang (Bethel School District) and Jeannine Parisi (E-Web).

Concerns

1. Many people are suffering yet many don't have health care.
2. People are sick, and because of their illness, they can't be as active and involved as clean air community advocates.
3. Roosevelt and Danebo residents noticed smoke stack steam that "stink" and "rain on you". This was raised by a bicyclist and mother who regularly bicycles with her children. She was concerned for residents who walk or bicycle regularly in the area.
4. Participants asked whether industrial sources are regulated. They expressed that "something is horribly wrong" since they are experiencing pollution "viscerally".
5. Some senior residents remarked that those affected the most, "die or leave". These statistics don't show on the results because they are no longer in the neighborhood.
6. Canvassers are concerned that some neighbors "shelter themselves indoors".
7. Stretch along Roosevelt Avenue – risks of naphthalene (described as a mothball smell) that are strong enough to make them nauseous. One resident made the comment that this came from JH Baxter (wood treatment facility).
8. JH Baxter uses copper arsenate, etc. - concerned over toxics in the soil and will not grow vegetable gardens.
9. Lane County is the only county in Oregon where air quality is very poor. We have to be aware for the health of our seniors.
10. Monitoring doesn't "do" anything and LRAPA don't change their policies even when they detect air pollution through monitoring.
11. LRAPA is reporting data on an annual basis only for Air Toxics- but this doesn't help the daily experiences of the residents. LRAPA has a real time monitoring available on the web that residents can check.

Potential Solutions

1. Distribute information on who to contact regarding smells.
2. Call Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) if smells are detected. Provide where, when, wind direction (541.736.1056)
3. What does LRAPA do with complaints?
 - a. LRAPA tracks and looks for a pattern
 - b. May talk to industry
 - c. May look for solutions
4. Set up a network of phone texting to neighbors about bad air.
5. E-Web (local utility municipal) proposes “ductless” heat pumps program targeting Trainsong.
6. Would like Vehicle testing – many also smell car exhaust.
7. Raise awareness; take actions on concerns raised by residents, and present to elected officials.
8. Form and provide resources to a Community Advisory Committee

Next Steps

1. Collect names interested in participating in the Community Advisory Committees.
2. Set up meeting date to address issues and concerns.
3. Determine solutions that will address these concerns.
4. Find out who and where to present these solutions so that further action can be taken.

For more information please contact:

Oregon Toxics Alliance 541.465.8860 www.oregontoxics.org

Centro LatinoAmericano 541.687.2667 www.centrolatinoamericano.org

or Alison Guzman at aguzman@oregontoxics.org or Alison@centrolatinoamericano.org